

Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism

CDC/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Initiative Update

JANUARY 2001

State/Local Spotlight

The Wyoming Department of Health has initiated several unique projects for bioterrorism preparedness:

- To improve surveillance for bioterrorism, staff have begun development of a training video for animal health professionals and established a contract with the regional Poison Control Center for transfer of daily reports on calls made by Wyoming residents. "Epi maps" have been developed and are posted on-line at <http://wdhfs.state.wy.us/epiid/epimaps.htm> to show geographical distribution of infectious disease morbidity.
- Laboratory staff have partnered with the USDA laboratory, the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, and the Wyoming Game & Fish Laboratory for hands-on training with *Brucella* sp., *Francisella tularensis*, and *Yersinia pestis*. In addition, a survey of hospital laboratories around the state was completed and will be used to tailor level A training programs which are scheduled to begin later this year.
- Communications capabilities have been enhanced by the implementation of an All Hazards Response toll free number, a secure web page for discussion groups related to various aspects of bioterrorism preparedness, and a computerized broadcast "blast" fax system.

Future efforts will be focused on the following activities:

- Development of a statewide computer-based 24/7 active alert system;
- Development of an emergency/disaster response team with expertise in engineering, health, environment, and safety;
- Education of bioterrorism responders such as nurses, first responders and veterinarians; implementation of at least 2 statewide table top exercises; and
- Training for local and state laboratorians, epidemiologists and other public health professionals.

For additional information on these and other activities, please contact Charles Hall at 307-777-3416; e-mail: chall@state.wy.us or Angie McGuire at 307-777-7530; e-mail: amcgui@state.wy.us.

CDC Update

- CDC has launched *Epi-X, The Epidemic Information Exchange*, a secure Web-based communication tool for sharing information on outbreaks as they are identified and investigated. CDC is encouraging state bioterrorism epidemiologists and coordinators to enroll in *Epi-X*. Those epidemiologists and surveillance coordinators not currently enrolled in *Epi-X* can get information on how to apply by sending an e-mail to epixhelp@cdc.gov.
- CDC Enhanced Surveillance Project (ESP) is currently in progress for the Super Bowl/Gasparilla Festival in Tampa, Florida.
- CDC has designed the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) to monitor infectious diseases, including emerging infections, using integrated Internet technology. Forty-six states and 3 cities received NEDSS funding in FY2000: 14 will develop systems and 32 will plan for development of NEDSS compatible systems. When completed, NEDSS will enhance detection and management of multi-jurisdictional outbreaks, like West Nile Fever, or possible bioterrorist events.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2001 Alamo Alert (Biological Threat Symposium, Team and Technology Display, Leadership Table-Top Exercise, and Patient Management Demonstrations), San Antonio, TX, <http://www.nbctraining.com/AlamoAlert.asp>
- Apr. 21-25, 2001 National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Conference, Dallas, TX, <http://www.ndms.dhhs.gov>
- Jun. 10-13, 2001 4th International Conference on Anthrax, sponsored by USAMRIID and ASM, Annapolis, MD, <http://www.asm.org/mtgsrsrc/anthrax01.htm>
- Jun. 10-14, 2001 Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), Seattle, WA, <http://www.apic.org>.
- Jun. 10-15, 2001 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)/Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), Portland, OR, <http://www.cste.org>.
- Jun. 30-Jul. 3, 2001 National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), Atlanta, GA, <http://www.neha.org>.

Bibliography of Recent Publications

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